(c) the response of Central Government to the request of the State for re-allotting the undelivered quantity of 13998.30 metric tonnes of sugar to other sugar factories; and

(d) by when the requested allotment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The monthly levy sugar quota of Andhra Pradesh is 9690.0 MTs. The allocation of monthly levy sugar quota has been made to Andhra Pradesh in full during the period from March, 2009 to September, 2009. However, the State Government has informed that some sugar mills have not delivered allotted levy sugar quantity to the tune of 13998.30 MTs during the said period.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has taken appropriate action on case to case basis by re-allotting the shortfall of levy sugar in some cases and directing the defaulting sugar mills to deliver levy sugar against allocation orders.

National Food Security Act

3288. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been inching towards finalizing broad contours of proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA) as it has zeroed in to take only central estimates of number of BPL people in country for providing subsidized foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether Empowered Group of Ministers headed by the Finance Minister in its meeting has decided to set aside all other BPL estimates put forward including by the Ministry of Rural Development under the proposed Act;

(c) if so, whether Group of Ministers (GoMs) has given its final decision in this regard; and

(d) whether many States have objected to the stand taken by GoMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) At present Empowered Group of Ministers is examining various issues related to the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA), including the number of Below Poverty Line families to be covered under the proposed Act.

Unhygienic packaged drinking water bottles

3289. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the packaged drinking water bottles/jars are highly unhygienic;

(b) whether the bureau of Indian Standards has revealed that most of the samples of packaged water bottles failed the drinking water standards set by it;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to enforce compulsory ISI mark on each packaged water bottle being sold in the markets; and

(d) the details of other steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Packaged Drinking Water in bottles/jars with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification (ISI Mark) are generally not unhygienic.

(b) Out of 3061 samples of Packaged Water tested by BIS during the period 01-12-2008 to 30-11-2009, 824 samples failed.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already brought Packaged Drinking Water under mandatory certification of BIS under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. Action in cases of violation of the PFA Rules, 1955 is taken against the offenders by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned.

(d) BIS on its part ensures the quality of Packaged Drinking Water manufactured by its licensees through a well defined certification scheme wherein visits are made to the licensees' premises, samples are drawn from factory and market to check conformity of the product to the relevant Indian Standard. In cases of deviation from the prescribed standard, action is taken as per the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder.

Creation of strategic reserve of wheat and rice

3290. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to ban futures trading of almost all farm products and to create a strategic reserve of wheat and rice to control spiralling commodity prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also proposes to create a strategic reserve of pulses to check its prices; and

(d) if so, the details of strategies formulated to ensure ban on futures trading on almost all farm products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. The forward trading in a commodity is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management and not a mechanism to check price rise. The futures market gives price signals for future periods of time based on the most likely supply